

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 19, 24-34 and 36 are pending.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 23-24 and 35-36.

Claims 37 and 38 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Additionally, claims 19-22, 25-32, 39 and 40 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.K. '230. It is respectfully submitted that with the cancellation of claims 37 and 38, the rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph is moot. Additionally, applicants have amended claim 19 to include the subject matter of claims 20-23, while also amending claim 26 to include the subject matter of claim 35. The Examiner indicated that this would place the claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims under 35 USC §103(a) is now moot.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 19 and 26 are now allowable. The remaining claims all depend, either directly or indirectly, on either claim 19 or claims 26, and therefor they are allowable for at least the reasons claims 19 and 26 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

SEIJI MOTOJIMA, et al.
Application No.: 09/403,894
Page 4

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy E. Cretsinger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cathy E. Cretsinger
Reg. No. P-51,588

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: (415) 576-0300
KTL:CEC/lo
SF 1365995 v1

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1 19. (Amended) A method of manufacturing carbon fiber coils
2 comprising:
3 placing a solid catalyst within a reaction chamber;
4 supplying stock gas and a catalytic gas to the reaction chamber;
5 applying voltage to the solid catalyst to change the solid catalyst; and
6 heating the interior of the chamber to grow carbon fiber coils from the
7 stock gas, wherein an exterior of the reaction chamber is substantially free of a magnetic
8 field during the heating.

1 24. (Amended) The method according to claim [23] 19, wherein the
2 voltage is a DC voltage and the solid catalyst is negatively charged.

1 25. (Amended) The method according to claim [22] 19, wherein the
2 interior of the chamber is heated to a temperature in the range of 700 to 830 degrees
3 Centigrade.

1 26. (Amended) An apparatus for manufacturing carbon fiber coils
2 from a stock gas, which is subjected to thermal decomposition to generate solid carbon,
3 and a catalytic gas, which promotes thermal decomposition of the stock gas, the
4 apparatus comprising:
5 a reaction chamber, to which the stock gas and the catalytic gas are
6 supplied through a port;
7 a solid catalyst located within the reaction chamber; [and]
8 a power source, which is external to the reaction chamber, for applying
9 voltage to the solid catalyst; and
10 a heating device for heating the interior of the reaction chamber to grow
11 carbon fiber coils from the stock gas, wherein the heating device produces substantially
12 no magnetic field in the reaction chamber.

36. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim [35] 26, wherein the power source is a DC power source for negatively charging the solid catalyst.